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The efforts of the professional woman to realize a new ideal of pecuniary independence, which have taken her out of the home and into new and varied occupations, belong to recent, if not contemporary history. But this history, for her, covers a social revolution, and the world she faces is a new one. The woman of the working classes finds it, so far as her measure of opportunity goes, very much as her great-grandmother left it."

The volume is an important addition to the economic history of the United States, and discusses in a scholarly fashion a most interesting and noteworthy phase of our industrial development. Dr. Abbott has shown herself an able as well as a sympathetic historian of the industrial career of her sex in this country. She displays a firm grasp of the subject, judicial powers of analysis, and draws eminently fair conclusions. Confined almost entirely to a consideration of the extent and nature of women's employment, the study does not discuss, except incidentally, such questions as hours, conditions of work, factory legislation, etc., though there is a chapter on women's wages. It may be noted that Tench Coxe's name is misspelled throughout the volume.

ERNEST L. BOGART

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The Last American Frontier. By FREDERIC L. PAXSON. New York: Macmillan, 1910. 8vo, pp. xi+402. \$1.50 net.

The significance of the frontier as a factor in American history is rapidly coming to receive the recognition which is its due. As yet, however, the details of frontier life and the settlement of the West have not been given adequate attention, this being especially true of the period after the frontier passed beyond the Mississippi. Hence the present volume, primarily concerned with this period, will be particularly serviceable.

The struggle for the last frontier, according to our author, covers the years from 1821 to 1885. At the former date the apex of the wedge which marked the frontier rested at the bend of the Missouri River. Beyond was that great unknown, "the American desert." Monroe, who was the first to formulate a real Indian policy, assumed that at this point the frontier had reached its final resting-place, and proposed to set aside the region beyond the Missouri as a permanent Indian country to which the eastern tribes were to be moved. This policy was rapidly carried out in the early 30's, so that by 1840 there existed an unbroken line running through that point and extending from the Red River and Texas to the lakes beyond which all the important Indian tribes had migrated. In the meantime the white population was pouring into the lands thus vacated. The author's treatment of the history of the frontier up to this point is relatively brief, being introductory to his study of the frontier beyond the Mississippi in which his chief interest lies.

The process by which the western Indian country, so long thought of as a desert, came to be really known, was a slow one, and the real settlement of the region was slower yet. A knowledge of the section was gradually obtained through those who entered it for exploration, for trade, or in the search for gold. The information obtained by the early trappers was never widespread. The commerce over the Santa Fé trail, always small, was of some help, and the

migration over the Oregon trail of still greater service; but it was not until the expeditions of Frémont, in 1842-45, that the region as a whole became fairly well defined. Then came the movement to Oregon, the trek of the Mormons, and finally the great rush of the gold-seekers. Thus by 1850 the long-standing tradition of the American desert had about disappeared. The rising settlements on the Pacific coast demanded closer communication with the rest of the country—a need further accentuated by the outbreak of the Civil War. To meet this demand there appeared in succession the overland mail, the pony express, the telegraph, and finally the railroad. With the construction of the railroad the frontier entered upon its final phase; the intervening frontier ceased to divide, and the period of national assimilation of the continent began.

This proved the climax in the series of invasions of the Indians' rights which had been going on for many years. Much of the early traffic in this country had violated treaty rights; the hunting grounds had been restricted; and the cessions of land in Kansas and elsewhere immediately to the west of the old Indian frontier had in many cases occurred only under pressure of necessity. In spite of all this the Indians of the Far West had generally been on friendly terms up to 1861. But the position in which they then found themselves was rapidly becoming worse and worse, and eventually brought an almost continuous series of Indian wars lasting from 1865 to 1870. These were simply the culmination of the westward movement of the white population—the last general stand of the tribes in protest against these encroachments. The completion of the Union Pacific divided the Indians of the plains, and with the advance of civilization following the opening up of the rest of this region by the other railroads it soon became clear that the old Indian policy was a thing of the past. Control of the tribes was properly passed over to the civil authorities, once their resistance was finally broken; and the policy of adapting them to more civilized methods of life began. With the great influx of permanent settlers and the introduction of agriculture in the following decade or two the frontier quickly vanished from the map.

It will be seen from the above outline that this book centers about the struggle between the white man and the Indian for the old Indian country beyond the Mississippi. It is in connection with the Indians and the Indian policy that the most original part of the study is to be found. The author's researches on this topic have carried him through a mass of documentary and other sources, and the work has been done with care. It is in this connection, too, that the author's judgments are most prominent. It is his belief that the Indian in his native state could not continue to live beside the white man and must give way before him. Admitting this to be correct, there might still be a somewhat fuller discussion of the general policy adopted in bringing about the inevitable result. Perhaps this is reserved for the more thorough presentation promised at a later date. Where opinions are expressed on particular events in this history of our dealings with the Indians they are fair and judicious in spirit. Throughout the scholarship is such as augurs well for the volume promised later.

One could wish, however, in a book which the author declares is "not primarily intended for the use of scholars" and in which he seeks "to preserve the picturesque atmosphere which has given to the 'Far West' a definite and

well-understood meaning," to find more of this atmosphere than one does. True, many bits of personal experience and glimpses of the real life of the frontier are brought in, and they all add color and human interest to the tale. Yet they but whet one's appetite for more, and one feels as if the author had unduly restrained himself in presenting this phase of frontier history. If chapters on the economic and social life of the region could have been substituted for the rather dry and detailed account of engineering surveys or some minutiae of the Indian campaigns, the desired atmosphere would have been more real. The life of the frontier is one of the most picturesque, most interesting, and most stimulating features in American history. It is a life of which the generation rising in the midst of the present-day advanced industrial organization can have slight conception. The story of the dangers, the suffering, the industry, the perseverance, the courage of those who chose to cast their lot with the vanguard on the frontier in the struggle to subdue a continent is one which should appeal with tremendous force to every American. It is a story which cannot be told too vividly, a tale where the human element cannot be made too prominent.

CHESTER W. WRIGHT

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The Expansion of New England. By LOIS KIMBALL MATHEWS. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909. 8vo, pp. xiv+303. \$2.50 net.

It is not often that a group of people from one small section of a country are destined to exercise such a potent influence over other sections as have those who emigrated from New England. The latent social force which the stock from this small corner of the country proved could be exercised over wide areas and through many generations is the most significant feature of this study.

From the period of the first establishment of the New England colonies until about 1660 they were mainly occupied in making their foothold secure, and, except for the settlements along the Connecticut River, had not ventured far from the coast. From 1660 to 1713 the history of the frontier was largely determined by the frequent Indian wars, and little advance was made. By that time, however, the settlers on the frontier had become differentiated from those on the coast, where prosperity had made a leisure class and culture possible. The period of comparative peace between 1713 and 1745 witnessed the first speculation in land, and an expansion such that at its close virtually all of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut had been granted for settlement; many were settling in northern New England, and some moving to New Jersey and New York. The outbreak of war checked the movement for a few years, but it was soon resumed, the tide in the period just preceding the Revolution setting toward northern New England, New York, and northeastern Pennsylvania. The Revolution resulted in a temporary setback; but the war was scarcely over before the movement was again under way, first turning toward northern New England, so that by 1812 New Hampshire and Vermont were fairly settled; but later, and in greater volume, turning to central New York, northern Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The War of 1812 and the later Indian treaties